

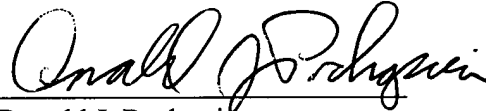
## REMARKS

The amendments to the claims do not add new matter. Specifically, the amendments to claims 1 and 23, adding the term "*in vitro*" to the preamble and step (a) merely clarify the *in vitro* nature of the assay as already recited in step (b) of claims 1 and 23, respectively. Claim 31 has been amended to clarify the whereby nature of the claim relative to claim 1. For all these reasons, the amendments to the claims do not add new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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